

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S NEW YEAR'S POEM
RAISE HIGH THE BANNER OF HUMANISM AND ADVANCE TOWARD
LASTING PEACE!**

The brilliant sun of New Year's Day, 2001!
The dawn of a momentous new page in history!
The commencement of the second phase
Of worldwide kosen-rufu!
My beloved fellow members across the globe,
Congratulations on the start of the
new century!

Now, at this moment,
President Toda's passionate call for peace
Resounds in my heart:
"We must allow no people to be sacrificed.
We must eradicate all misery from the face of the earth!"

Yet, untold tragedies
Continue to rack the world.
We have not yet clearly replied
To the fundamental question
Put by the sage Erasmus
In his plea for peace:
Why cannot human beings
Have goodwill toward one another?

This is our goal:
A world in which we can all live
Together in peace,

Sharing only the one common designation —
Human being.
Now, let us go back and begin again
From the essential starting point
Of the human being.

My mentor's advocacy
Of global citizenship, too,
Was a ringing declaration of humanism,
Transcending all differences
And respecting the dignity and
equality of all —
How brilliant was his vision
Of the 21st century!

His was a challenge to realize the ideal
Of one human race
That had long been an elusive dream.
His was a philosophy of unity and harmony
That viewed the earth
As the common homeland
Of all humanity;
A philosophy of coexistence and human rights
That saw all human beings
As equal sovereigns
Of this planet;
A philosophy of peace and global citizenship
That placed highest priority
On the survival
Of the human family.

Oct. 2, 1960 —
With my mentor's lion's roar and visage
In my heart,
I took my first step for peace,
Venturing out into a world
In the grip of the Cold War.
Forty years have since passed.
The SGI's alliance of the people
Now spans the globe
And Buddhism has spread
Throughout the entire world —
A world that has surmounted
And moved beyond the Cold War.

On the day of the SGI's founding
In January 1975,
I called out from Guam
To our members everywhere:
“When people of all nations unite,
Help each other, and advance
Based on the Mystic Law,
We will definitely achieve lasting peace.”
I would like to address
That declaration of peace
Again now
To our members in 163 nations and
territories,
To tell them that our solid alliance
Of global citizenship
Will change human history without fail.

From this day forth, too,
I will continue to knock on the doors
Of diverse cultures and civilizations,
Seeking out the humanity that is vibrantly alive
At the heart of each,
Believing that sincere dialogue
In search of our shared humanity
Will build a rainbow bridge linking the world.

I ask each of you, too,
Together with me,
And in my place,
To deepen the dialogue
Of real human exchange and
communication,
In all cultures, among all peoples of the world.

From one individual to another,
Starting in our immediate environment,
From small, modest efforts,
Let us steadily carry on our movement.
A commitment to treasure each person—
In that daily, unceasing practice
Lies the dynamism
To transform the entire planet.
And there, too, shines a life
Of unparalleled value-creation.

Now, let us courageously advance together
Into the uncharted frontier
Of a new millennium of hope!
As we ring in the second series of Seven Bells,
Let us raise higher and higher still
The banner of humanism of Buddhism!

*With my prayers for the increasing good health
And prosperity of my beloved fellow SGI members,
And the wish that all of you may live victorious lives
Filled with joy, wisdom and strength.*

*New Year's Day, 2001
Daisaku Ikeda
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